

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A method for operating a laundry machine comprising:
supplying steam to a tub or drum having laundry introduced thereto at a temperature suitable to sterilize or sanitize the laundry;
supplying washing water to the tub or drum;
washing the laundry while rotating the drum for a preset time period;
rinsing the laundry at least once when washing the laundry is finished; and
spinning the laundry by rotating the drum when rinsing the laundry is finished.
2. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the supplying of steam comprises supplying steam continuously for a preset time period.
3. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the supplying of further steam comprises supplying steam for a cycle time period shorter than a cycle time period of washing the laundry.
4. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the supplying of steam comprises supplying steam at a temperature that can kill various microbes in the laundry.
5. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprises supplying steam to the tub or drum after the spinning of laundry.

6. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the supplying of steam after the spinning comprises supplying steam at a temperature that is the same as, or higher than the temperature suitable to sterilize or sanitize the laundry.
7. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the supplying of steam after the spinning comprises supplying steam for a preset time period.
8. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprises stopping operation of a steam generator before the supplying of washing water into the tub or drum.
9. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a laundry device comprising:
 - supplying washing water to a tub or drum having laundry introduced thereto;
 - rotating the drum for a preset time period during washing;
 - draining residual washing water while performing intermediate spinning of the drum at a high speed for making an intermediate extraction of water when the washing is finished;
 - supplying steam into the tub or drum having the laundry thereto to sterilize or sanitize the laundry when the intermediate spinning is finished and before filling of water to rinse;
 - rinsing at least once with washing water supplied to the tub or drum when supplying the steam to sterilize or sanitize the laundry is finished; and
 - performing a final spinning cycle when rinsing is finished.
10. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the supplying of steam comprises supplying steam at a temperature that can kill various microbes in the laundry.

11. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the supplying of steam comprises supplying steam for a preset time period long enough to kill various microbes.

12. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 9, further comprises supplying steam to the tub or drum to refreshen the laundry after the final spinning cycle is finished.

13-14. (Canceled)

15. (Withdrawn) A method for operating a laundry device comprising:
supplying washing water to a tub or drum having laundry introduced thereto;
rotating the drum for a preset time period during washing;
draining residual washing water while performing intermediate spinning of the drum at a high speed for making an intermediate extraction of water when the washing is finished;
rinsing at least twice with cold and warm water, alternately when the intermediate spinning is finished; and
performing a final spinning cycle when the rinsing is finished.

16. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the rinsing is performed in the following steps in succession:

performing a first rinsing with the cold washing water,
performing a second rinsing with the warm washing water after the first rinsing is finished, and
performing a third rinsing with the cold washing water.

17. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 16, further comprising performing an intermediate spinning between the first, and second rinsing, and between the second, and third rinsing.

18. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 15, further comprises supplying steam to sterilize or sanitize the laundry before the supplying of washing water.

19. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the supplying of steam to sterilize or sanitize the laundry comprises supplying steam continuously for a preset time period.

20. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the supplying of steam to sterilize or sanitize the laundry comprises supplying steam for a preset time period shorter than a cycle time period of washing the laundry.

21. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the supplying of steam to sterilize or sanitize the laundry comprises supplying steam at a temperature that can kill various microbes in the laundry.

22-28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the temperature is higher than 60°C.

30. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the time period is a time period of 3 -10 minutes.

31. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the rinsing ~~is made by progressing the following steps in succession comprises~~ :

a first rinsing step for performing rinsing with cold washing water,

a second rinsing step for performing rinsing with warm washing water after finish of the first rinsing step, and

a third rinsing step for performing rinsing with cold washing water.

32. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 31, further comprising an intermediate step between the first and the second rinsing step, and between the second and the third rinsing step.